

PURPOSE: The purpose of the "Training Today Newsletter" is to provide assistance and support for TPAES users submitting PAE applications. We also use this notification to communicate upcoming LTSS initiatives and to describe how those may affect your daily practices. Please forward to staff in your company that complete or submit TennCare (Medicaid) PAEs/PASRRs. This contains vital information for all TPAES users.

Employment and Community First CHOICES

What is Employment and Community First?

Employment and Community First CHOICES is an exciting new program, implemented July 1st, 2016, for people of all ages who have an intellectual or developmental disability (I/DD). This includes people who have significant disabilities.

Services in this program help people with I/DD live as independently as possible at home or in the community, not in an institution. They also help them do things in the community that they want to do—to help them build relationships and reach their goals. If the person lives at home with their family, the services help their family support them to become as independent as possible, work, and actively participate in their communities.

Know Your Numbers

Within the first year, Employment and Community First CHOICES has enrolled nearly 1,500 new members. Wow!



Signing Up for the Program

There is a limited amount of funding to serve people enrolled in the Employment and Community First CHOICES program each year. This could mean that not everyone who applies will get enrolled right away. If a person is not able to enroll at the time they apply, the applicant will be added to a referral list.

To refer themselves for Employment and Community First CHOICES, an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability can complete a self-referral. The self-referral form can be found on the LTSS website here: <https://tcreq.tn.gov/tmtrack/ecf/index.htm>

What Does Employment and Community First Offer?

Employment and Community First CHOICES offers a variety of benefits including self-advocacy supports for the person and for their family. Residential services are also covered for adults who need them.

In addition, Employment and Community First CHOICES offers different kinds of pre-employment and employment services for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability. Please click on the link below for a full list of services:

<https://tn.gov/assets/entities/tenncare/attachments/MemberBenefitTable.pdf>

Additional Questions about ECF?

If you have Employment and Community First CHOICES related questions, please reach out to the LTSS Help Desk @ 1-877-224-0219

How Can You Help?

We encourage you to reach out to residents in your facility who have an intellectual or developmental disability and may be interested in the Employment and Community First CHOICES program.

If you would like to learn more about what Employment and Community CHOICES has to offer for individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability and their families please visit the LTSS website here: <https://tn.gov/tenncare/topic/employment-and-community-first-choices>